GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3024
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
CASES OF SENIOR CITIZENS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 1923 on November 23, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the court cases relating to senior citizens languishing in jails through out the country;.

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in various courts in the country, State-wise; and.

(c) whether the Government have drawn attention to the State Governmentfor their early disposal of cases or to introduce amnesty scheme to give them relief at the fag end of their lives?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a)&(b):No, Sir.

The courts are functioning under the direction of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. However, from time to time, Government is seeking information on disposal of cases of senior citizens from the High Courts. The requisite information in respect of Unstarred Question No.1923 answered on 29th November, 2001 is still being collected.

(c): The Hon`ble Chief Justice of India wrote to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts to identify and dispose of matters on priority basis in which persons above 65 years of age were involved. The Hon`ble Chief Justice of India, further,wrote a letter dated 29th November, 1999 to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts suggesting that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, may hold his Court once or twice in a month, in jail to take up the cases of those under-trial prisoners which will include senior citizens too who are involved in petty offences. The State Governments were requested to take necessary action for expeditious disposal of criminal cases concerning the under-trials pending in various courts.

The amnesty scheme, however, falls within the domain of the State Governments.